patents being taken on certain products which are not considered patentable, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of patent can be challenged.

**Inclusion of 'Navsudra' Caste of Bengali Refugees in SC Category**

†*217. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 1309 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th June, 1998 and state whether Government would take measures to include 'Navsudra caste' of Bengali refugees in Scheduled Caste immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): The matter is being examined in consultation with Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Registrar General of India in the light of modalities approved by the Cabinet Committee on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Minorities on 15.06.1999. No time can be specified as proposals are received from time to time and processed in accordance with prescribed procedure.

**Performance of Steel Plants under SAIL**

*218. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all steel plants under Steel Authority of India are incurring huge losses for the past few years;

(b) if so, the plant-wise performance during the last three years and the reasons for huge losses; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the performance of the steel plants in the country?

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† Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.